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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/585,747	06/02/2000	Smaragda Hadjinikitas	Syner-161XX	7128
207	7590	06/14/2004	EXAMINER	
WEINGARTEN, SCHURGIN, GAGNEBIN & LEOVICI LLP TEN POST OFFICE SQUARE BOSTON, MA 02109			DINH, MINH	
		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
		2132		
DATE MAILED: 06/14/2004				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/585,747	HADJINIKITAS ET AL. <i>[Signature]</i>	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Minh Dinh	2132	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 April 2004.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-11 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. This action is in response to the amendment filed 04/16/2004 that amended the specification and the abstract.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments filed 4/16/2004 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant argues that, in the Howard reference, the affiliate server and the authentication server do not communicate directly and use the client as an intermediate to redirect the authentication request and response (page 7, first paragraph). Howard, in an alternate embodiment, does teach that that the affiliate server and the authentication server communicate directly with each other (col. 8, lines 29-31). Applicant points out that the secondary reference, Moriconi, does not show the first and second data processing agents (page 6, lines 1-3) and an authentication method and interaction between the first and second data processing agents as claimed (page 7, last paragraph). Moriconi teaches two data processing agents providing application service and authorization service and the two data processing agents being on the same server machine (col. 10, line 64 - col. 11, line 6). Since Howard does not teach that the two data processing agents are on the same server, the examiner only used the Moriconi reference to provide motivation, as stated in the Office Action, to implement two data processing agents of Howard on the same server.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Howard et al. (6,584,505) in view of Moriconi et al. (6,158,010).

a. Regarding claims 1 and 4, Howard et al. disclose a method of authenticating a user of a client computer at a server computer, comprising the steps of:

receiving a service request from the user at a first data processing agent (col. 6, lines 40-42);

submitting an authentication request from the first data processing agent to a second data processing agent to authenticate the user (col. 6, lines 51-52; col. 8, lines 29-32);

receiving a response to the authentication request at the first data processing agent from the second data processing agent (col. 7, lines 44-45); and

if the received response indicates that the user is successfully authenticated, providing the requested service to the user (col. 7, lines 54-56).

Howard does not disclose that the data processing agents are on the same server. Moriconi et al. disclose that two data processing agents are implemented on the same server (col. 10, line 64-col. 11, line 6). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made modify the method of Howard such that the first and second data processing agents are implemented on the same server to provide maximum performance and minimize network traffic overhead.

b. Regarding claim 2, Howard does not disclose that the received response includes a level of access privileges for the user, and the providing step includes the step of determining the service provided to the user based upon the user's access privilege level. Moriconi et al. disclose a level of access privileges for a user (col. 7, lines 41-41) and the step of determining the service provided to the user based upon the user's access privilege level (col. 8, lines 25-28, col. 13, lines 18-23). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made modify the method of Howard such that the received response includes a level of access privileges for the user, and the providing step includes the step of determining the service provided to the user based upon the user's access privilege level. The motivation for doing so would have been to provide service to authorized users only.

c. Regarding claim 3, Howard further discloses that the first data processing agent is included in a first server and the second data processing agent is included in a second server (see figure 1).

5. Claims 5-6 and 8-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Howard in view of Moriconi and Fuh et al. (6,463,474).

a. Regarding claims 5-6 and 8, Howard et al. disclose a method of authenticating a user of a client computer at a server computer, comprising the steps of:

receiving a service request from the user at a first data processing agent (col. 6, lines 40-42);

submitting an authentication request from the first data processing agent to a second data processing agent to authenticate the user (col. 6, lines 51-52; col. 8, lines 29-32);

authenticating the user at the second data processing agent (col. 6, lines 59-66);

if the user is successfully authenticated, storing timeout a value indicative of a predetermined time period (col. 6, lines 1-6, 13-19);

determining whether the predetermined time period is exceeded starting from the last authentication process (col. 6, lines 1-6, 13-19); and

if the predetermined time period is exceeded, requiring the user to be authenticated at the second data processing agent upon receipt of the second service request (col. 6, lines 1-6, 13-19).

Howard does not disclose that the data processing agents are on the same server. Moriconi et al. disclose that two data processing agents are implemented on the same server (col. 10, line 64-col. 11, line 6). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made

modify the method of Howard such that the first and second data processing agents are implemented on the same server to provide maximum performance and minimize network traffic overhead.

Although the second data processing agent in the Howard reference stores a timeout value and enforces a timeout policy for all requests made to the first data processing agent, that timeout policy is not based on a maximum time period allowed since the last request. Fuh discloses a method providing network access control which uses the maximum time allowed since the last request as an authentication requirement; the method comprising the steps of: if the user is successfully authenticated, storing a timeout value indicative of a predetermined time period; determining whether the predetermined time period is exceeded starting from a time of receipt of the previous service request; and if the predetermined time period is exceeded without receiving a service request from the user, requiring the user to be authenticated at the second data processing agent upon receipt of the next service request (col. 12, lines 41-45; col. 14, lines 34, 42-56). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made modify the method of Howard to also use the maximum time allowed since the last request as an authentication requirement and to include the steps of: if the user is successfully authenticated, storing a timeout value indicative of a predetermined time period; determining whether the predetermined time period is exceeded starting from a time of receipt of the first service request; and if the predetermined time period is exceeded without receiving a second service request from the user, requiring the user to be

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authenticated at the second data processing agent upon receipt of the second service request, as taught in Fuh. The motivation for doing so would have been for the first data processing agent to be able to delete information associated with users that have not initiated any request in a predetermined time period to save memory.

b. Regarding claims 9-11, Howard et al. disclose a method of authenticating a user of a client computer at a server computer, comprising the steps of:

receiving a service request from the user at a first data processing agent (col. 6, lines 40-42);

submitting an authentication request from the first data processing agent to a second data processing agent to authenticate the user (col. 6, lines 51-52; col. 8, lines 29-32);

authenticating the user at the second data processing agent (col. 6, lines 59-66).

Howard does not disclose that the data processing agents are on the same server. Moriconi et al. disclose that two data processing agents are implemented on the same server (col. 10, line 64-col. 11, line 6). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the method of Howard such that the first and second data processing agents are implemented on the same server to provide maximum performance and minimize network traffic overhead.

Howard also does not disclose the steps of: if the user is successfully authenticated at the second data processing agent, storing user authentication

information at the first data processing agent at the first data processing agent; receiving a next service request from the user at the first data processing agent; authenticating the user at the first data processing agent using the stored information; if the user is successfully authenticated at the first data processing agent, providing the requested service to the user; and if the user is not successfully authenticated at the first data processing agent, submitting an authentication request to the second data processing agent. Fuh discloses a method for providing network access control comprising the steps of: if the user is successfully authenticated at the second data processing agent, storing user authentication information at the first data processing agent at the first data processing agent (col. 12, lines 41-45); receiving a next service request from the user at the first data processing agent (col. 12, lines 52-55); authenticating the user at the first data processing agent using the stored information (col. 12, lines 52-55); if the user is successfully authenticated at the first data processing agent, providing the requested service to the user (col. 12, lines 52-55); and if the user is not successfully authenticated at the first data processing agent, submitting an authentication request to the second data processing agent (col. 14, lines 49-56).). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made modify the method of Howard to include the steps of: if the user is successfully authenticated at the second data processing agent, storing user authentication information at the first data processing agent at the first data processing agent; receiving a next service request from the user at the first data processing agent; authenticating the user at the first data processing

agent using the stored information; if the user is successfully authenticated at the first data processing agent, providing the requested service to the user; and if the user is not successfully authenticated at the first data processing agent, submitting an authentication request to the second data processing agent, as taught in Fuh, to achieve advantage and improvement in authentication speed and efficiency.

6. Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Howard in view of Moriconi and Fuh as applied to claim 5 above, and further in view of Sampson et al. (6,490,624). Howard, Moriconi and Fuh, in the method of claim 5, do not disclose that the first data processing agent, upon receipt of the second request, transmits a notification to the second data processing agent so that the second data processing agent can use the new time for checking against a future request. Sampson discloses a system in which one data processing agent, upon receipt of a request, notifies other agents so that they can update their corresponding "Last Access Time" value and use the updated value to make decision regarding a future request (col. 13, lines 24-28; col. 14, lines 6-12; 22-24). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made modify the method of Howard such that the first data processing agent, upon receipt of the second request, transmits a notification to the second data processing agent so that the second data processing agent can use the new time for checking against a future request, as suggested by Sampson, to facilitates security of the system.

Conclusion

3. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Minh Dinh whose telephone number is 703-306-5617. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon - Fri: 9:00 am - 5:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gilberto Barron can be reached on 703-305-1830. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

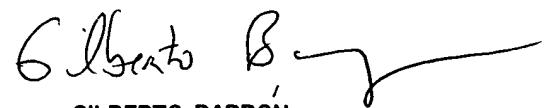
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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

MP

Minh Dinh
Examiner
Art Unit 2132

MD
6/4/2004


GILBERTO BARRON
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100